A Copie of a Letter of the taking of LEICESTER

On *Wednesday* the 18.th of *June*, 1646.

With the Copie of the *Articles*, and the manner of Storming it the day before:

A List of what was taken in LEICESTER,

14 Peeces of Ordnance,
30 Colours,
200 Armes,
500 Horse,
50 Barrels of Gunpowder.

And all their Ammunition and Provisions, of Bagge and Baggage.

The Lord of *Loughborough* to goe to *Ashby de la Zouch*, and the rest of the Officers and Souldiers to *Lichfield*.

The severall marches of the King since hee was Routed, and his numbers, and how pursued by Sir JOHN GELL, and 200 Horse by him taken from the King.

Brought from the Army, and commanded to be forthwith Printed and Published.

LONDON,
Printed by THO: FORCET, 1646.

An exact and perfect Relation of the manner of taking of LEICESTER, with the Treaty and all the particulers concerning the same, certified by a Letter from an eminent person (there) of the Army.

Honoured SIR,

UPon the routing of the Kings Army, Sir *John Gell* gathered together all the forces of *Derbishire*, *Nottinghamshire*, and the adjacent parts that hee could, and on Munday the 16.th of *June*, 1646. They met with some of the Kings horse and tooke 200. And another party met with some of the *Newarkers*, and fell upon them, and routed them, tooke 60 Horses, 42 Prisoners, and 80 Armes. The *Scots* wee heare are at *Chesterfield*, and Sir *William Brereton* at *Stafford* marching this way.

On

On the said Munday *June* the 16. Sir *Thomas Fairfax* lay before *Leicester* and sent in a Summons to the Towne, to require the Governour to surrender it to him for the use of the Parliament; and putting it to them to consider how the King was routed, and shewing them what use they might make of that Clemency, with divers other very gallant expressions to the summons, to advertise them how much better it was for them to surrender then to force him to take it by storming.

To this summons the Enemy sent a negative Answer, positively this, that they would not surrender it; whereupon Sir *Thomas Fairfax* called a Councell of Warre to consult about the Storming of it, which was soon concluded on; that they should prepare all things in readinesse to round it the next day: which was done with all expedition not loosing any time.

So they fell presently to raising of Batteries, and doing all things that were necessary for the storming thereof according as they had appointed, and continued providing every thing that was requisite for the doing thereof, to be in a readinesse to batter it the next day, and sent into the Country thereabouts for such helpes as were necessary for the worke, which went on with great speed both night and day; so desirous wee are to have a speedy end of the worke that there may be an end of these warres if possible.

On Tuesday the 17.th of *June*, wee drew downe our Ordnance and playd with our Pieces against the Towne, we stormed it playing with our Ordnance very hot on the *Newarke* side, which we conceived was their greatest

 strength?

ſtrength? And in ſhort time we made a breach in their workes, which ſtrucke ſuch a terror into the hearts of the Enemy, that the Governour ſent to us to deſire a Parley, and offered to ſurrender upon very faire termes; as upon capitulation ſhould be agreed upon.

To this requeſt (Sir *Thomas Fairfax* being willing to ſave the ſpilling of innocent blood as much as may be) he aſſented: and promiſed ſpeedily to ſend in Commiſſioners for the treaty, and called a Councell of warre and it was agreed that Collonel *Pickering*, and Collonel *Reinſborough* ſhould go into *Leiceſter* to treat with the Governour about the ſurrendring the ſaid Garriſon to Sir *Thomas Fairfax*. And accordingly a ſafe conduct was deſired for them, which being ſent they went to Capitulate with the Governour about the ſurrender thereof.

In the meane time Sir *Thomas Farfax* was not idle, nor did he looſe any time; but went on providing and furniſhing himſelfe with Pittars, Carts, Hay, Granadoes, Ladders, and all other things neceſſary for ſtorming; reſolving to fall on at their returne, in caſe that they ſhould not agree, not knowing how things might fall out, during which time there was both great paynes and care taken by all in their places for the going on in the ſayd worke.

In the meane time we had Intelligence that the King was on Munday the 16 of *June* at *Sheffield*; that he came from *Aſhby dela zouch* thether with about 2000 horſe, or more, the day before, *viz.* *Sunday* night, and marched that morning (*viz.* *Munday* morning) to a

Randez vouſe neere *Dudley* Caſtle, where with the *Lichfield*, and *Dudley* horſe, and others that come in to their Randez-vouſes, the King had above 3000 horſe as is conjectured by the Country people which ſaw them.

About 11 of the clocke on Munday morning, they marched from thence to *Sturbridge*, where he had ſome more Horſe came in, ſo that in all it is conceived that hee is nigh 4000. Divers of which hee hath been faine to recruite with freſh Armes from *Lichfield*, *Dudley*, and other Garriſons thereabouts.

The King it is believed will for *Worceſter*, and there joyne with what Forces *Gerhard* can releeve him with, and ſome more Forces that hee lookes for out of the Weſt; but Collonel *Gerhard* hath met with a rout alſo in *Shropſhire*, where he loſt almoſt 400 men, by fighting with the Countrey forces, and the Governour of *worceſter* was killed, and divers other Officers of note were ſlaine, and taken.

All the reſt of that day, *viz.* Munday the 16 of *June*, our Commiſſioners were in Capitulation with the Enemy in *Leiceſter*, and the Army went on preparing for a Storme, having no Anſwer that night, and looking for their returne the next Morning very earely, were reſolved to fall on if they had not agreed with the Enemy.

On Wedneſday *June* the 18. about two of the clock, the Commiſſioners, *viz.* Collonel *Reinsborough*, and Collonel *Pickering*, returned with a Concluſion of the delivery of it up upon theſe Articles following.

The Articles for the ſurrender of the Towne and Garriſon of *Leiceſter* to Sir THOMAS FAIRFAX, for the uſe and ſervice of the Parliament, agreed on *June* the 18.th, 1646.

Betweene Collonel PICKERING, and Collonel REINSBOROVGH.

1. THat the Lord Loughborough *ſhall have quarter granted him, and have protection for his Perſon to be ſafely conveyed to the Garriſon of* Aſhby de la Zouch.

2 *That all field Officers, Collonels, Lieutenant Collonels, Serjeants, Majors, and Captains, & Lieutenants of Horſe, (but not of Foot) ſhall march away with their owne particular ſingle horſe and armes, with protections for their owne perſons.*

3 *That all the reſt of the Officers ſhall be conveyed ſafely to the Garriſon of* Lichfield *with Staves only, and no other weapons in their hand.*

4 *That all common Souldiers have quarter onely for their lives, and be conveyed to* Lichfield *without any other weapons, ſave onely ſtaves in their hands.*

5 *That before* 10 *of the clocke the ſaid morning* Iune *the* 18. *the Governour of the Towne, and the Lord* Loughborough *and all the reſt of the Officers, and Souldiers*

march

march out of the Garriſon according to the agreement aforeſaid.

6 *That Sir* Thomas Fairfax *be permitted to enter in at* 10 *of the clock the ſaid* Wedneſday *morning aforeſaid, with his Forces, and take poſſeſſion of the Garriſon.*

7 *That all the Pieces of Canon, great and ſmall now in the Garriſon of* Leiceſter, *be left to Sir* Thomas Fairfax.

8 *That all the Armes, and Ammunition now in* Leiceſter *be left to Sir* Thomas Fairfax, *ſave onely what is agreed to for the Officers of Horſe aforeſaid.*

9 *That all the Proviſions, Colours, Bag and Baggage be alſo left to Sir* Thomas Fairfax.

10 *That all the Horſe (ſave onely thoſe excepted for the Officers aforeſaid) that are in the Garriſon of* Leiceſter *be delivered up to Sir* Thomas Fairfax, *for the ſervice of the Parliament.*

11 *That all the Officers and Souldiers have quarter for their lives.*

12 *That all the Priſoners of Warre that are in* Leiceſter *at the ſame time, be releaſed and ſet free to ſerve the Parliament.*

With theſe Articles the Commiſſioners returned to Sir *Thomas Fairfax*, certifying further how ioyfull that poore Towne of *Leiceſter* was at the hearing of the ſaid agreement, and that they ſhould be rid of the Cavaliers.

Thus you ſee the Lord doth wonderfully for us, above the reach of mans wiſdome. Truly we cannot but much admire the goodneſſe of Almighty God to us, in doing ſo great things for us, we cannot aſcribe it to any but to the hand of God Almighty, who is the Lord of Hoſts.

And

And it is to be admired to see the cariage of our Generall, and indeed all the Officers, how lovingly wee agree, how full of Courage all men are, both Officers and Souldiers when we are in array, what heavenly expressions, there is from all; and our Generall doth carry himselfe in so excellent a manner that it rowsed up the Courage of all that see him; and the like also did Maior *Skippon*, who by reason of his wound could not be here in the taking of *Leicester*, but we hope that hee will recover; for in all Designes, by his wisdome and Valour, his very name is a terrour to the Enemy.

A List of what was taken at Leicester.

14 Pieces of Ordnance.
30 Colours.
2000 Armes.
500 Horse.
50 Barrels of Gun-powder.
And all their Ammunition and Provisions, with bagge and baggage.

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